

LBI announces LCBGP award to the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana (August 14, 2012)

The Louisiana Division of Administration (DOA) has announced its Louisiana Communities Broadband Grant Program (LCBGP) award to the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana for its “Koasati Imolpiina: Promoting Web-based Koasati Resources in the Coushatta Community” project.

The goals of this project will be focused on creating and maintaining an interactive dictionary of the Koasati language – the native language of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, which, in turn will drive broadband adoption and usage among tribal members. Specifically, the project will provide:

- The development of the Koasati Language Project website, which will not only provide tribal members with a talking dictionary, but will also enable streaming audio and video of Koasati Language Committee meetings and the development of Koasati Language applications that can be downloaded to portable computing devices.
- Digital backup of the 5TB of digital text, video, audio and images that have been collected over the previous 5 years in a grant from the National Science Foundation.
- Weekly Koasati language and digital literacy training classes for the tribal community.

LCBGP is a technical assistance program that is designed to fund broadband-related planning and demonstration projects among rural communities that are un-served or underserved by commercial broadband providers. LCBGP is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 and requires a 20% project grantee match through cash and/or in-kind contributions.

“As is the case with many of our Native American languages, the Koasati language is being actively spoken by fewer and fewer Coushatta tribal members,” said David Moore, State Broadband Grant Program Director. “We are very pleased to fund this project, so that the Koasati language will live on perpetually, ensuring that the Coushatta community will retain a very important part of its culture and heritage”.

This marks the tenth award made through the LCBGP and the first to a federally-recognized tribal nation of Louisiana, bringing the total amount of LCBGP awards to \$830,000. LBI staff looks forward to partnering with all of its award recipients to ultimately benefit the citizens of the targeted communities.